

The information which can be used to produce statistics of Adoptions

Because of the potential sensitivity of information about adoptions, only some of the details that are recorded when an adoption is registered can be used to produce statistics about adoptions. The data which are available for statistical purposes consist of the following items of information.

- Year of registration, volume number (register number), entry number.
- Type of adoption.
- Adopter type - joint (male and female), one male, one female, joint male, joint female.
- Whether parents were married to each other (this is not always known).
- Adopter relation (if any) to child.
- Sex of child, and age (in months if under 2 years old; otherwise in years). NB: this is the age on the date on which the Adoption Order was granted - not the age on the date on which the adoption was registered.
- Whether this is a re-adoption of the child, or a provisional adoption (no longer relevant).
- Country of birth, year of overseas adoption, country of overseas adoption.

Such data are readily available only for adoptions which have been registered since the start of 1999, so cannot be used to produce figures for any earlier years.

The details which are not available for the production of statistics include the following:

- original and new name of the child
- name(s), address(es) and occupation(s) of the petitioner(s)
- the date on which the Order was granted by the court
- the name of the court.